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**AFGHANISTAN**

## FIRST PERSON

# Here, women's lib is just one click away

**The Resource Centers established by USAID across Afghanistan offer women a safe place to read or surf the Net**



Photo: USAID/IFPACS

***'This resource center is near the university and I can easily access it to continue my studies and research'***

- Shama, Nangarhar Student

Shama is a business major at a private higher education college in Nangarhar province. Till recently, she found it difficult to conduct the research she needed in order to complete her assignments. She had limited access to the public library and if she got there, there was never any guarantee she would get to surf the Net.

Shama's life changed when a USAID-sponsored Resource Center opened in Nangarhar, offering library and internet services eight hours a day, six days a week.

"I am very thankful," says Shama, who spends at least a couple of hours every day at the Resource Center, which is managed by a USAID partner. She said such resources are a godsend especially for women because "many females are able to use such safe places".

Cultural reasons prevent young women like Shama from frequenting crowded public libraries and internet cafes.

She says, "This resource center is near the university and I can easily access this center to continue my studies and research."

The Resource Center, which changed Shama's life – and very possibly her prospects – is one of 19 established across Afghanistan under the Initiative to Promote Afghan Civil Society-II program.